

II. REMARKS


1. As requested, Applicant encloses a copy of the International Search Report and International Preliminary Examination Report for PCT/US99/01781. It is noted that these documents are indicated as received and accepted by the USPTO (Elected Office) as of November 22, 2000. No non US patent literature was cited.
2. The Examiner has requested information on the fax machine (90) of FIG. 1. The fax machine 90 of FIG. 1 generally comprises facsimile machines and devices, as those devices are known and understood in the art. ("off the shelf" equipment).
3. The Examiner has requested information on how data is communicated between the peripherals connected to the fax machine and the network 60 of FIG. 1. The connections are through the generally accepted and known communication protocols that are typical for these devices.
4. The Examiner has requested information on how the postage printer communicates through the fax machine to communicate with the host. As noted in the description of the invention. For example, PCT publication 98-13790 proposes to link a PSD to a printer, through a local area network. The communication protocols are those that are commonly associated with the devices.
5. The Examiner has requested information on set-top box (70) of FIG.1. The set-top box is described in connection with web television viewing, as that is generally known and understood. The term "set-top box" is described in more detail on page 6, lines 19-24 of the specification.

6. The Examiner has asked how the postage printer communicates through the set-top box with the host. This is described in the specification at, for example, page 4, lines 1-11; page 6, line 25 to page 7, line 6; page 7, line 9-17.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,


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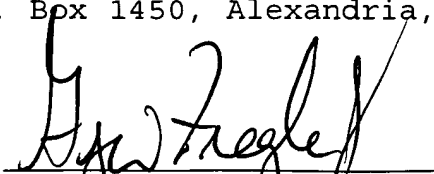
April 4, 2005
Date

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